

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 974

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Harriet Howard of Smyrna, upon being named the 2006 "Female Volunteer of the Year" by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service National Advisory Committee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to honor those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as estimable public servants dedicated to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such laudable citizen is Harriet Howard of Smyrna, who was recently named the 2006 "Female Volunteer of the Year" by the Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee, after being nominated by LT Barbara L. Turner, USN (Ret), National President of WAVES, Women of the Sea Services; and

WHEREAS, staunchly advocating on behalf of veterans for over sixty years, Harriet Howard, herself a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer, was selected out of 94,000 active volunteers throughout the Veterans Affairs System of 154 facilities for her tireless contributions to her fellow veterans over the years; and

WHEREAS, a volunteer at the Nashville/Murfreesboro Alvin C. York VA Medical Center since 1988, "Ms. Harriet" has logged nearly 8,000 hours of voluntary service to our veterans, involving herself in nearly every aspect of the facility's operations and support programs; and

WHEREAS, although Harriet Howard is modest, humble, and reluctant to take credit for all of her hard work, she has played an integral role in such efforts as the launching of female health care in the 1980s, obtaining equipment for the Ophthalmology Clinic, and bringing mammography to the York Campus as well as the subsequent opening of the Women's Clinic in 1995; and

WHEREAS, giving not only her time but her passion for volunteer efforts, Ms. Howard has planned and participated in numerous volunteer activities for long-term care and nursing home patients at the York campus and has thus become a beloved figure to countless present and former York VA patients; and

WHEREAS, she has organized a multitude of events for patients at York, including the patient carnivals, Tennessee Walking Horse shows, and Memorial Day activities, in addition to serving as an annual co-sponsor of the Middle Tennessee State University Homecoming football game, which honors hundreds of veterans each year; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 82, Ms. Harriet continues to volunteer every week at the Dental Clinic and the Women's Clinic, and she is currently working to raise VA and community awareness about the need to reopen the main therapeutic swimming pool at York that was closed in February of 2005 because of a lack of funds; and

WHEREAS, deeply respected by her co-workers and fellow veterans, Ms. Harriet Howard is considered by many the one person most responsible for the raising of hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations to build the World War II Memorial sphere on the Tennessee Bicentennial State Park Mall in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a recipient of the President's Call to Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, Harriet Howard is a WAVES National VAVS Representative and has served on the Management Assistance Council for VISN 9, the Community Access Sub-Council that assessed the need for Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the VISN, and the Nashville-Davidson County Veterans Coordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, having retired from the Navy in 1983 after thirty years of courageous service, Ms. Harriet Howard has served as co-grand marshal of the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Nashville, an honor highly appropriate for a veteran who has spent a lifetime in dedicated service to her fellow veterans of the United States armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Howard epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to service that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Harriett Howard for her meritorious service to her country and to the military veterans of this great Nation at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center and VA medical facilities across America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we take great pride in joining with the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee in paying tribute to Harriet Howard on being named the 2006 "Female Volunteer of the Year" for her years of devotion and tireless efforts on behalf of her fellow veterans and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.